

Message Text

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14

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7228

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO 117

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, XF, LE

SUBJECT: ARAB LEAGUE MEETING ON LEBANON CONVENES

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1. ARAB LEAGUE FOREIGN MINISTER MEETINGSON LEBANON CONVENED EVENING

OCTOBER 15. ALL MEMBER STATES ATTENDED WITH EXCEPTION OF LIBYA, SYRIA AND PLO. ALGERIAN DEL WAS RPT WAS REPRESENTED. FOLLOWING FORMAL INTRODUCTORY REMARKS, MEETING WAS CLOSED TO PUBLIC. SECOND AND FINAL EXECUTIVE SESSION BEGINS MORNING OCTOBER 16.

2. ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS, MINISTERS AGREED TO FORM COMMITTEE COMPRISING FONMINS OF KUWAIT, LEBANON, EGYPT, UAE (THIS MONTH'S ARAB LEAGUE CHAIRMAN) AND SYG RAID. COMMITTEE WILL BE CHARGED WITH DRAFTING COMMUNIQUE ADDRESSED TO LEBANESE PEOPLE WHICH WILL "CRYSTALIZE" VARIOUS PROPOSALS TO BE ADOPTED.

3. FONMIN FAHMY'S REMARKS TO HIS COLLEAGUES RECEIVE HEADLINES IN AHRAM: "EGYPT WILL NOT ALLOW ISRAEL TO COMMIT AGGRESSION AGAINST LEGANON IN EXPLOITATION OF LEBANESE CRISIS." REPORTEDLY FAHMY MADE FIVE POINTS:

A. ALL FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN LEBANON MUST END.

B. EGYPT IS ENTIRELY PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY ACTIVE POSITIVE EFFORT TO SOLVE CRISIS WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF JOINT ARAB EFFORT, SINCE JOINT EFFORT IS SOLE GUARANTEE OF NEUTRALITY AND OF "ASSURANCES" FOR ALL PARTIES.

C. EGYPT WILL NOT ALLOW ISRAEL TO EXPLOIT CRISIS BY TRESPASSING ON LEBANESE SOVEREIGNTY. ARAB NATION MUST ADDRESS ARAB WARNING TO ISRAEL TO THIS EFFECT.

D. EGYPT REJECTS ALL CLAIMS TO DIVIDE LEBANESE UNITY; FINAL GOE ATTITUDE VIS-A-VIS PARTIES TO CONFLICT WILL BE DEFINED BY THEIR COMMITMENT TO PRINCIPLES OF LEBANON'S ARABISM.

E. EGYPT REJECTED EVERY EFFORT INVOLVE PALESTINIAN PRESENCE IN LEBANESE DISPUTE; LEBANESE CONFLICTS ARE OLDER THAN TEMPORARY PALESTINIAN PRESENCE THERE.

4. ALTHOUGH PRESS FEATURES FAHMY'S REMARKS PROMINENTLY AND REPORTS "FIERCE FIGHTING BETWEEN KATA'IB AND PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE," CONFERENCE ITSELF IS RATHER UNDERPLAYED. AHRAM FEATURE PICTURE, FOR EXAMPLE, IS OF SADAT RECEIVING VISITING JORDANIAN POLITICIAN. MORE IMPORTANT, THERE IS STILL NO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EFFORT BY LOCAL MEDIA TO POINT OUT THAT SYRIAN, LIBYAN AND PALESTINIAN BOYCOTT IS IN ITSELF CONTRIBUTION TO ARAB DISUNITY.

5. ON CONTRARY, WE FIND LITTLE DIRECT CRITICISM OF PLO IN ANY RESPECT TODAY, THOUGH PALESTINIANS ARE SUBJECT OF SEVERAL SEPARATE NEWS ITEMS: SADAT'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT ALL GAZA AND WEST BANK STUDENTS WHO APPLY TO UNIVERSITIES SHALL BE ACCEPTED AS SHALL

LARGE NUMBER WHO APPLY THROUGH PLO; PRIMIN SALIM GAVE REPORTEDLY
LOW-KEY EXPLANATION OF SINAI II TO LOCAL PLO AND FATAH REPS.
ONLY AKHBAR CRITICIZES PLO DIRECTTLY IN MIDLY-PHRASED
EDITORIAL SUGGESTION THAT LIBYAN AND PLAESTINA ABSENCE FROM
CONFERENCE CANNOTSERVE NECESSITY OF RESTORING PEACE TO LEBANON.
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